

**Deer Master List  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Specific proposed change for 2018-2019 is listed below.**

**Region 1**

**Mule Deer**

HD 103: Add 103-50 AB MD permit (quota 5, range 1-15) only valid in HD 103 -50

**Proposal quick summary:**

Hunters and sportsmen in support are asking for a Mule Deer permit area to be established in area 103 of region 1. The following information will help establish what is being requested. Sportsmen in favor would like the permit area to be introduced into the 2018 deer and elk regulations and therefore be effective for the 2018 hunting season. Area would be labeled 103-50. Apply by March 15th. Permit to be valid in HD 103-50 only. Permit must be used with a valid General Deer License. Holders may not hunt Antlered Buck Mule Deer in any other HD.

### What we are trying to accomplish:

- 1) Provide a permit area for to the Libby area. The closest full permit area is area 130-50 and is over 180 miles away.
- 2) Increase the Post Season buck:doe ratio
- 3) Increase the age structure of harvested bucks.

Topic #1 – *provide a permit area for the Libby area* = The Libby area has shown a strong support for this proposal, our group believes that our section of the state has a much higher percentage of individuals who would like a permit area versus other areas of the state. We have been able to provide the documentation of those who support us including 6 elected officials from both the County and the State.

Topic #2 – *Increase the Post Season buck:doe ratio* = In an effort to aid Mule Deer in increasing the age structure of harvested bucks the Post Season buck:doe ratio goes along with increasing the age structure. All permit areas in the state currently have an objective to maintain a certain buck:doe ratio.

Topic #3 – *Increase the age structure of harvested bucks* = The second objective for the permit is to have a minimum of 40% of bucks harvested to be at least 4 years old and older. In the past 10 years the percentage of bucks that were 4.5 year old and older was 19.2%.

Area 103 Canoe Gulch Check Station Harvest Data for Mule Deer Bucks from years of 2006 and 2015 (last 10 year period)				
		Age	Point R	Point L
average of all 146		2.88	2.16	2.19
	total bucks	146	% of total	
	total 8.5 year olds	1	0.7%	
	total 7.5 year olds	0	0.0%	
	total 6.5 year olds	4	2.7%	
	total 5.5 year olds	11	7.5%	
	total 4.5 year olds	12	8.2%	
	total 3.5 year olds	29	19.9%	
	total 2.5 year olds	37	25.3%	
	total 1.5 year olds	52	35.6%	
	total # of 4.5 year old and older bucks harvested	28	19.2%	

The age structure of harvested bucks in the specific area can be shown by the table below. This table is comprised of the Canoe Gulch check station harvest information. Only deer that were listed as from our proposed area are included. The table below shows that 51.18% of harvested bucks through the check station were 1.5 years old. In this instance it shows that objective #2 is to increase the age of harvested bucks and the information below shows the potential to do so is great.

<b>Canoe Gulch check station harvest data from 1985 to 2015 in proposed area only</b>			
	<b>total bucks</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>% of total</b>
	<b>total 8.5 year olds</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.34%</b>
	<b>total 7.5 year olds</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.23%</b>
	<b>total 6.5 year olds</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.01%</b>
	<b>total 5.5 year olds</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2.25%</b>
	<b>total 4.5 year olds</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3.04%</b>
	<b>total 3.5 year olds</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>8.46%</b>
	<b>total 2.5 year olds</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>30.89%</b>
	<b>total 1.5 year olds</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>51.18%</b>
	<b>total .5 year olds</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2.37%</b>
	<b>n/a</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.23%</b>
	<b>total # of 4.5 year old and older bucks harvested</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>6.9%</b>

In an effort to show that our proposed permit area fits within the Adaptive Harvest Management plan we have reviewed the Mule Deer special management districts section. The following is from page 30 and 31 in the ADH plan. Based on the explanation below our permit meets all criteria.

The Criteria used to select the districts were:

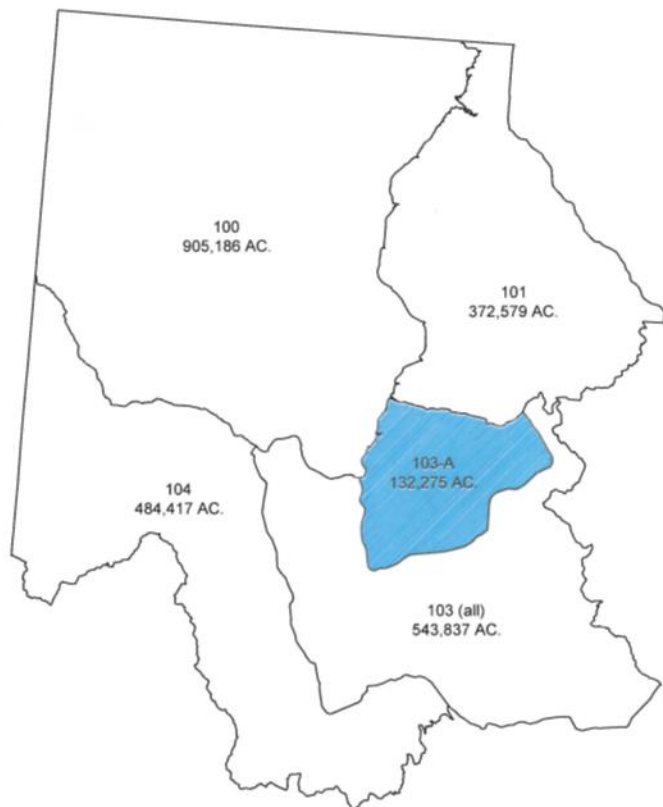
- 1) The hunting districts should be within that portion of the state where the hunting opportunity for bucks and buck age diversity is low. This will reduce the impact to hunting opportunity statewide and still provide at least one or two areas reasonably close to a hunter. **The buck age diversity in the proposed area is low, see the check station data from Canoe Gulch showing that only 93.1% of the harvested Mule Deer checked in were 3.5 years old or younger specifically speaking to our proposed area only. This criterion is met.**
- 2) There should be only a few districts chosen because of the impact of such a restriction on hunting opportunity and the statewide impact of the resulting redistribution of hunters. **Currently surrounding Libby there are only two permit areas. One is 109-50 located 60 miles from Libby by Eureka which is permit only the last two weeks of general season and the other is 130-50 located 180 miles from Libby by Seeley, Lake. Therefore a permit in area 103 would meet this criterion as we currently do not have a permit area close. This Criterion is met.**
- 3) There should be significant hunter interest in managing for older bucks in the area. **In a 4 week period our group was able to gain 454 signatures of Hunters in support of this proposal. We also received six personally addressed letters from six elected officials to include all three Lincoln County Commissioners, the Sheriff of Lincoln County and two state elected representatives. This criterion is met**
- 4) The locations should be accessible to hunting: that is, the hunting district should not be an area with a considerable amount of closed private land. This will increase the shift of hunters but areas with limited access do not correspond to where the demand for hunting older bucks is coming from. **The area being proposed has very limited private property that is not open to public hunting. This criterion is met.**
- 5) The area should not have a naturally high buck:doe ratio because of limited access. **The area being proposed does not have a naturally high buck:doe ratio because of limited access. The access to the proposed area is known by all to be great, one of the most heavily roaded areas in the region. This criterion is met.**

The final part would be having 2 Objectives for the proposed area.

- 1) Post-season buck:doe ratio at least 40:100
- 2) A minimum of 40% of bucks harvested are at least 4 years old.

Area being proposed = within region 1 and area 103. Area 103 totals 543,837 acres, the proposed area will be labeled and called 103-50 (labeled in map as 103-A and highlighted) is 132,275 acres. As a percentage that is 24.3% of area 103.

The huntable Mule Deer areas surrounding Libby (the closest city) and area 103-50 are shown below in the map.





The proposed area 103-50 comprises of acreage that totals 5.7% of the huntable mule deer acreage surrounding Libby as shown below in the table. What this is showing is that the proposed area is not considered a large portion of land, this has been done as to not shift a large amount of hunters leading to over harvesting in surrounding areas.

<b>Area 100 acreage</b>	905,186
<b>Area 101 acreage</b>	372,579
<b>Area 103 acreage</b>	543,837
<b>Area 104 acreage</b>	484,417
<b>Total Acreage</b>	2,306,019
<b>"Proposed permit acreage</b>	132,275
<b>% of acreage of proposed permit</b>	<b>5.7%</b>

**Goal: To provide hunting opportunity for older aged bucks in a limited number of districts offering reasonable public access. This goal was obtained from the Adaptive Harvest Management plan on page 31 specifically speaking to limited permit areas for Mule Deer. Therefore our goal aligns directly with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks goal.**

**With that goal we would like to have that opportunity near the area of Libby.**